

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending.

The amendments are supported by the original disclosure and, thus, no new matter has been added. If the Examiner should disagree, however, it is respectfully that the challenged limitation be pointed out with particularity in the next Action so support may be cited in response.

The Int'l Search Report for Appln. No. PCT/IB2003/02878 and Form PTO-1449 listing the documents cited by the Examiner in the parent application are attached. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(d)(1), no further copies of documents previously cited by the Examiner in the parent application are being submitted. But should the Examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, prompt notice to that effect is earnestly solicited, along with additional time under 37 CFR § 1.97(f), to enable Applicants to comply fully. In particular, if any of the listed documents are missing or incomplete, please contact the undersigned who will provide another copy.


As provided by 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h), no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all possible material information. Furthermore, no inference should be made that this information or the cited references are prior art merely because they have been submitted for consideration. Consideration of the foregoing and enclosures, as well as the return of a copy of the Form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials per M.P.E.P. § 609, are earnestly solicited.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By: _____


Gary R. Tanigawa
Reg. No. 43,180

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100